

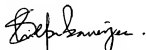
REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the above application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy extended to their representative during a telephone interview of December 10, 2003 during which proposed claim amendments were discussed.

In the December 1, 2003 response, Applicants inadvertently submitted mark-ups of claims 41, 52 and 56 that did not accurately reflect claim amendments. Accordingly, kindly replace the claim amendments filed on December 1, 2003 with the amendments filed herein.

None of the claim amendments constitutes new matter. Applicants request that the Examiner enter the claim amendments presented herein, consider the foregoing remarks and allow the pending claims to pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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